



ACTIVE READING

What is “Close Reading?”

WHAT IS ACTIVE READING?

- Read texts you encounter to understand and evaluate. Be willing to let that text open your mind and change preconceived ideas.
- Stretch your limits! If you only read relatively easy texts, you will only find entertainment. Put some **SUBSTANCE** in your reading diet! “To write well- to express your ideas efficiently and clearly- you need to observe how others do it.”
- Don’t just use good writing as a model; “hold [that] writing up to the light.” Critically evaluate what works and what doesn’t work.
- Be ready and willing to have a conversation with the author. All writing is only the beginning of a conversation. Argue. Challenge. Defend. Connect. Answer.



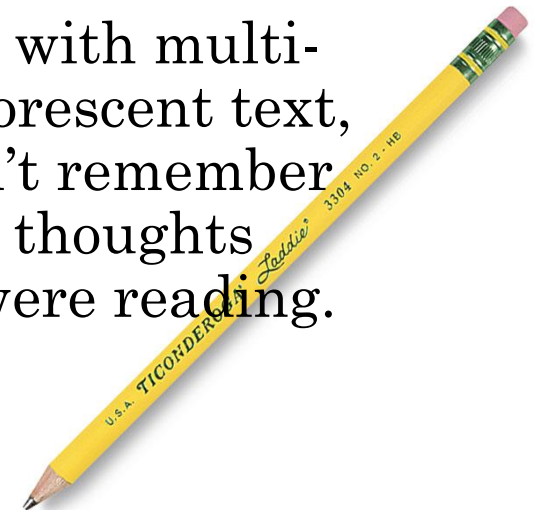
READ WITH A PENCIL IN HAND (AND POST-IT NOTES IF IT'S NOT YOUR BOOK!)

Annotate!

- Underline important passages
- Circle words you haven't heard of
- Scribble furious rants in the margin
- Jot down questions about content or writing strategy
- Use exclamation marks, question marks, arrows, and Xs

Why Not a Highlighter???

- It's like the waiting-for-the-movie version of annotating. Passive!
- You can identify chunks of text, but you can't note why they are important.
- You end up with multi-colored, fluorescent text, but you can't remember your actual thoughts when you were reading.



A CHECKLIST FOR ANNOTATING

As you read, consider marking or taking notes on the following:

- Main topics
- Secondary topics
- Main points
- Supporting points
- Examples, evidence, or other support
- Ideas or ways of saying things that you like
- Ideas or ways of saying things that you don't like
- Ideas you want to think more about later
- References or words with which you are not familiar

